Congestion of mobile phone lines

899. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone connections as on 1st January, 2005 and 31st October, 2006;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rapid growth in the number makes the number makes the network busy many times; and

(c) the steps the BSNL is going to take to dilute traffic congestion of mobile phone lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of mobile phone connections as on 1st January, 2005 was about 50 million and as on 31st October, 2006 is around 136 million, as reported by the Service Provider's Association.

(b) and (c) Congestion within the mobile network, *inter-alia* depends on the traffic generated at the given point of time and the network capacity.

BSNL is continuously augmenting the capacity of its mobile network and optimizing the same to meet the Quality of Service benchmarks as prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Supply of ADSL-II to all states

900. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL officials have not accepted fresh applications due to non-availability of modems recently in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the supply of ADSL-II modems in all States;

(d) whether the BSNL is making efforts to improve its broadband connectivity in the Visakhapatnam city as well as suburban areas by installing type-II swiches at Dabagardens, Mindhi and Visakhapatnam;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of four type-II switches installed in the vicinities of Visakhapatnam area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, applications are being accepted.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Currently, ADSL-II modems are being supplied to all States through a consolidated order of 3 lakh modems. BSNL has already placed an additional order of 12 lakh modems and is also processing for further 1.5 lakh modems. Equipments are procured as per the requirements.

(d) to (f) BSNL's Tier-II switches have already been commissioned at Daba Gardens, Mindi and Visakhapatnam steel plant in the vicinity of Visakhapatnam. To improve connectivity, one tier-II is under installation at MVP-II close to Visakhapatnam. Four more Tier-II switches are to be installed in the Visakhapatnam in the next expansion.

New post offices in Jharkhand

†901. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices working in Jharkhand at present;

(b) the number of requests for opening new post offices in different parts of the States are pending with Government;

(c) the number of post offices expected to be opened in the State; and

(d) by when these new post offices would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 3091 post offices functioning in Jharkhand.

(b) At present the total number of such requests in the country are 377, which includes 71 reqeusts relating to Jharkhand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.